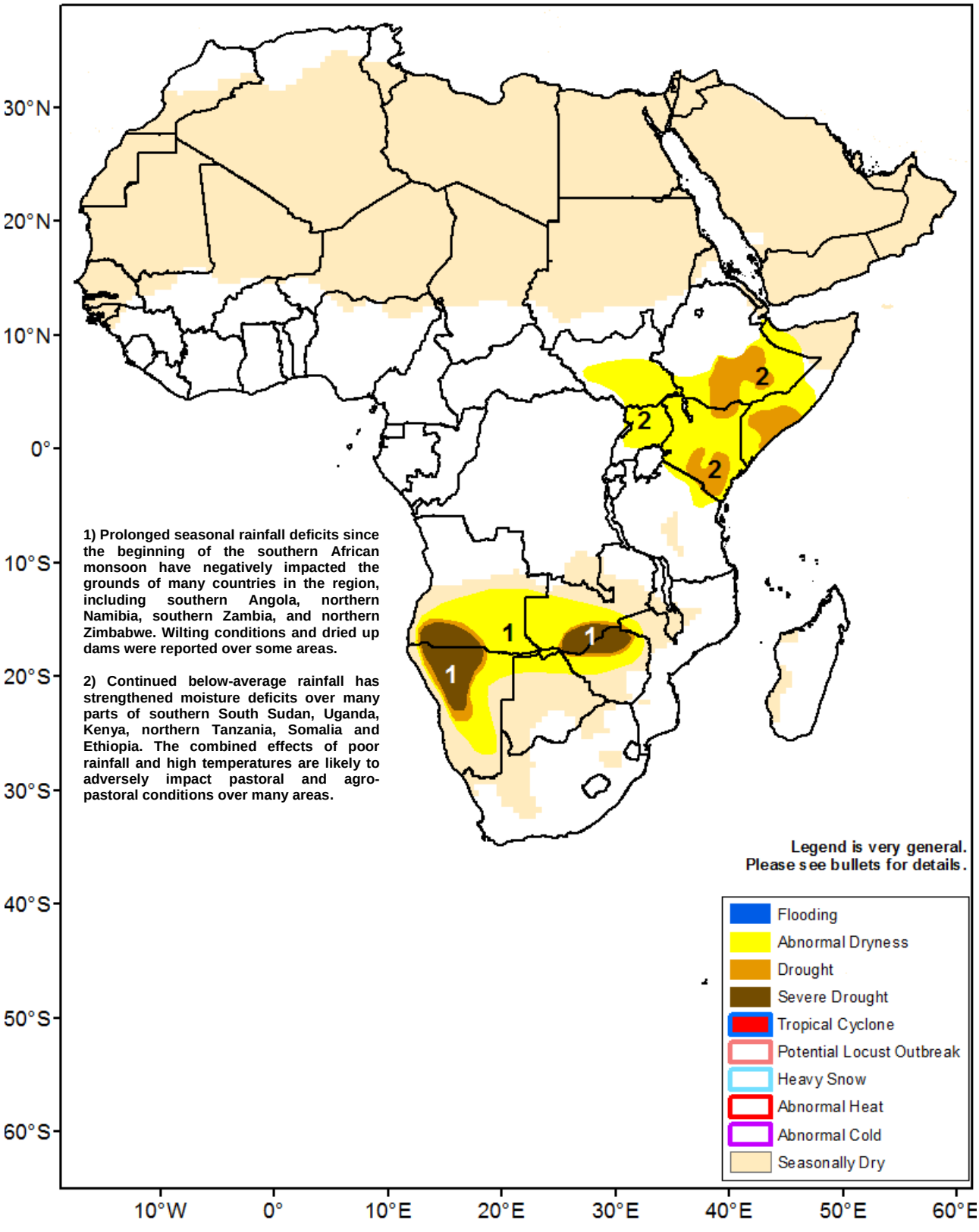
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 9 – May 15, 2019

- **A suppressed rainfall pattern returned to East Africa during the last week enhancing moisture deficits.**
- **Rainfall across the Gulf of Guinea countries was very typical for the beginning of May.**



Rains became suppressed again over many parts of East Africa.

During the last 7 days, locally moderate rainfall accumulations were received throughout many parts of East Africa. Many other areas received very little rainfall and the general pattern returned to one of rainfall suppression throughout the region. As a result, seasonal moisture deficits began increasing once again. According to gauge and satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly precipitation totals (>75mm) were registered in the Lake Victoria region and a few local areas of southern Somalia and Kenya, and South Sudan (**Figure 1**). Many areas including southeastern South Sudan, northern Kenya, central/eastern Ethiopia, and the northern two thirds of Somalia did not receive any rain during the week. All of this resulted in widespread 7-day deficits of 10-50mm across the region. The poor weekly pattern in this region follows a brief period of beneficial higher rainfall.

Following the late-April period of enhanced rainfall activity in the Greater Horn, positive changes in season to date precipitation anomalies proved short lived and deficits are again on the rise. Much of East Africa remains below-average in total seasonal performance due to the suppressed and infrequent rainfall activity that prevailed throughout March and much of April. Currently, many regions in Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia are still experiencing less than 80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation, with the poorest conditions (<25 percent of normal) concentrated over more climatologically arid areas of southeastern Kenya, eastern Ethiopia, and neighboring provinces of Somalia (**Figure 2**). Seasonal rainfall has also failed to reach many areas of South Sudan, resulting in strengthening of anomalous dryness throughout the country over the past few weeks. The continuation of suppressed rainfall into May has led to drought-like conditions and is likely adversely impacting many agro-pastoral and pastoral areas. Additionally, poor rainfall from last year's Oct-Dec rains season is likely to exacerbate ground conditions, increasing the concern for water shortages and food insecurity throughout the Greater Horn.

During the next outlook period, models suggest increased precipitation over Ethiopia. The greatest potential for above-normal rainfall is in southwestern Ethiopia where the highest accumulations could reach 100mm. Poor and uneven rains are forecast for northern/eastern Kenya and southern Somalia.

Uneven seasonal rainfall during April has led to moisture deficits in Nigeria.

A seasonable pattern of rainfall was observed in West Africa during the past week with 25mm or more total rainfall observed by satellites in southern Gulf of Guinea countries and into Burkina Faso. Over the last month the far western Gulf of Guinea countries have been slightly drier than normal, but the largest anomalies are present in Nigeria. Negative 30-day anomalies there reach as much as 100mm. Though rainy days have still been relatively frequent, adverse impacts to vegetation health are evident. Model forecasts show some potential for further suppression of rain in Nigeria during the outlook period, but generally seasonable precipitation elsewhere in the West Africa region.

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Total (mm)
Valid: May 1 –May 7, 2019

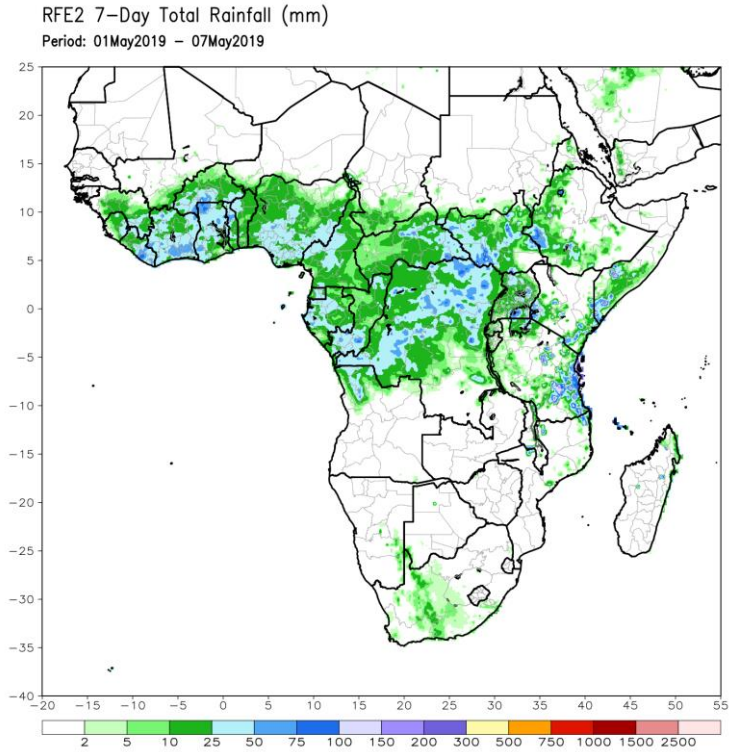


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Mar-Apr Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: March 1 – May 7, 2019

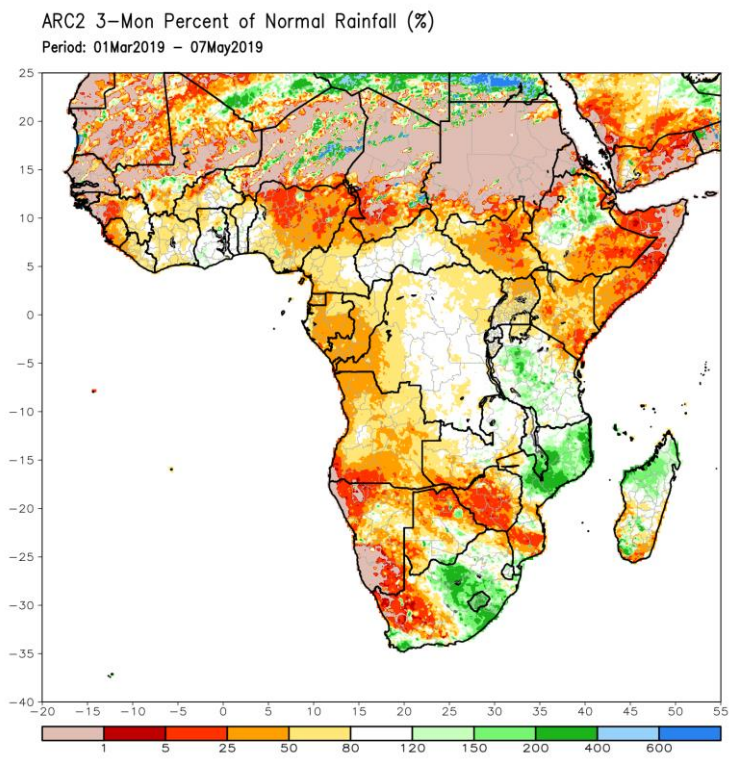


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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